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The CIA - More Or Less

Guess Who's Got A \$4 Billion Secret

THE INVISIBLE GOVERNMENT by David Wise and Thomas B. Ross (Random House, \$5.95)

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LAST Monday, the U.S. State Department told Washington newsmen there was no truth to the reports that



American pilots were flying Congolese planes and attacking rebels in Kivu Province. The following day, the State Department had this to say: "In response to inquiries, the department checked through the American embassy in Leopoldville and is now informed that some American civilian pilots are under contract with the Congolese government and have flown sorties in the eastern part of the Congo."

This would appear to be a strange occurrence in a country where the citizen picks up his newspaper and expects to

read everything fit to print about his government. But what is truly strange is that our embassy in Leopoldville was able to find out about those Americans flying planes for the Congo.

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THIS IS the impression left by this book by two Washington newspapermen who have put together the story of the Central Intelligence Agency... an invisible government that "gathers intelligence, conducts espionage and plans and executes secret operations all over the world."

This is no small secret society of super spies, but a mushrooming government agency employing 200,000 and spending \$4 billion a year. It is a government bureau that has grown independent of congressional control and now believes it stands above answering to some basic American precepts.

When Harry Truman created the Central Intelligence Agency in 1947, he could not have believed that its directors would one day attempt to suppress or alter the publication of a book that accuses the agency of conducting a foreign policy of its own and of meddling in the affairs of other countries without Presidential authority.

Super spies are not supposed to panic, but ours did when they attempted to buy up the entire publication of *The Invisible Government*, which is due on the bookstands Monday. The CIA was actually proposing to use taxpayers' money to institute its own ideas of censorship.

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THERE ARE no startling revelations in the book. What the authors have done in journalism's best rewrite tradition is pull together thousands of bits and pieces of information from magazines and newspapers and from congressional hearings that are public record. Into this they have woven stories that are common knowledge among newspapermen here and abroad and among political and diplomatic officials.

It is impossible to believe that publication of this book will aid and comfort the Communist spy system. After all, the report of the American fliers in the Congo came from the Reds' New China News Agency. The important question remains: Are the American people entitled to know as much about their government as the Communists know?

A major portion of the book is devoted to the buildup to the invasion of Cuba and the disaster at the Bay of Pigs. Secretary of State Dean Rusk denied that the country was intervening or intended to do so. And B-26s to be used in the invasion were taking off without lights from Miami's Opa-locka airport.

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PRESIDENT Eisenhower said of Indonesia that American policy was one of careful neutrality so as not to take sides where it is none of our business. But Indonesian anti-aircraft guns shot down a B-26 and an American named Allen Pope was captured when he parachuted to safety. Here in Miami, residents of Key Biscayne knew Mrs. Pope and spoke of her husband as that fellow who works for the CIA.

Four women in Birmingham are widowed by the Bay of Pigs invasion and an American general writes to a mother and says, "Unfortunately at present neither the CIA nor any other government agency possesses the slightest pertinent information on your son's disappearance."

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